

to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MASTER SERGEANT GARY GORDON

HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate this year's 25th Anniversary of the death of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, U.S. Army Special Forces.

MSG Gary Gordon was an extraordinary man and soldier, serving as Sniper Team Leader, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in the Battle of Mogadishu. He went above and beyond the call of duty on October 3, 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia, giving his own life to save another.

Since MSG Gary Gordon's heroic death in 1993, his beloved family, the Town of Lincoln, and our Great State of Maine have never forgotten his service and sacrifice. It has become tradition for the people of Lincoln, Maine to pause and honor MSG Gordon, their hometown hero, each and every year.

This year, on June 30, 2018, we will pay tribute to his life with MSG Gary Gordon Day, including a 5k run and walk and a yard sale fundraiser to erect his memorial statue in The Town of Lincoln's Veterans Park. The memorial will feature MSG Gordon's Medal of Honor citation, as well as a plaque with the names of all the American soldiers killed in 1993 in Somalia.

Today, the legacy of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and his selfless sacrifice lives on in the Town of Lincoln. We are so proud that this man lived, and hailed from the heart of our Great State of Maine. I am humbled and honored to serve in the United States Congress on behalf of the Gordon family and the residents of Lincoln, Maine, who are always looking to honor the memory our brave heroes like MSG Gary Gordon.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the death of Master Sergeant Gary Gordon, and in assuring his family, friends, and community that he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MYLO "MIKE" JOHNSEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mylo "Mike" Johnsen, who passed away in California on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Mike, a devoted family man, served his nation in World War II, and volunteered with senior and youth organizations in his community. He will be deeply missed.

According to his family, Mike was the last known living soldier of his World War II Army Battalion. He spent four years in the Army and

was part of the 535th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. The unit was based and trained at Camp Hahn, California, which is now the location of the Riverside National Cemetery. The 535th landed on the beach during the invasion at Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, fought throughout France and Belgium, including at the Battle of the Bulge and were eventually part of the Victory in Europe on May 8, 1945. We are forever indebted to Mike, who helped liberate Europe from tyranny.

Survived by his wife of 69 years, Mike cherished spending time with his family, which included five children, 12 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren. Mike worked 32 years for Rockwell/Boeing as a Quality Assurance Inspector and Engineer, contributing to many projects including Apollo Missions 3 through 17, B1 Bomber, MX missiles, three space shuttles and Navstar, the first satellite navigation system. Mike was a member of the Free Masons for over 50 years and an active adult leader with his children's various organizations, sports and activities. When Mike retired in Las Vegas, he taught western line-dancing at senior centers for 25 years and supported community events for children with intellectual disabilities at the Professional Bull Riders Finals until he was 91 years old.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Johnsen family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Mike. Although Mike may be gone, the many contributions he made to his country, community and family will have a lasting impact.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TOM MELIUS, MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Melius on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service after nine years as the Midwest Regional Director. For more than 30 years of distinguished Federal service, Tom has been a leader who is always focused on the Service's mission to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

As the Director of the Midwestern Region of the USFWS, Tom skillfully oversaw more than 1,000 people based at eight field offices, and an area encompassing 1.5 million acres of land in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. Tom also led the national effort to protect the monarch butterfly: the state insect of Minnesota and synonymous with the imagery of the great plains throughout the Midwest. Under his stewardship, the program became a national model for other pollinator and wildlife conservation programs.

Prior to his posting in the Midwest Region, Tom oversaw the vast and rugged terrain of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska region and served as Assistant Director for External Affairs in the Washington, D.C., Office

from 2003 to 2006. There he led the national programs for Public Engagement, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and the office of Native American Liaison.

Tom has also conducted substantive conservation for the Service while he was Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs. In this role he acted as the Service's representative on issues regarding the management and conservation of migratory birds and the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and wetlands programs.

In 2014, Tom was named one of four U.S. Commissioners on the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and advised the sea lamprey control program, which became one of the most successful invasive species programs in the history of international conservation. His efforts in guiding this program directly improved the health of the vast habitat and ecosystem that is the Great Lakes. In turn, he ensured that the lakes would remain healthy and true to their natural characteristics well into the future.

Before joining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tom served as a staff member on Capitol Hill, rising to a senior position on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where he crafted policy for fishery management with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard; and for coastal programs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He also advised the Committee on international conservation matters involving wildlife trade, marine mammals and endangered species. His thorough understanding of the legislative process has likely played a significant role in his ability to be an incredibly effective leader at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Tom Melius' career is exemplary of the impact that committed federal employees have on their work and the people who they serve. Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the exceptional career of Tom Melius, a champion for the environment and the women and men of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN J. "JACK" TIFFANY II

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my friend, Connecticut state representative and lifelong dairy farmer, Mr. Jack Tiffany. We lost Jack this past February, and I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the life of this dedicated public servant, who spent thirty years representing the 36th district of Connecticut.

John J. Tiffany II, or "Jack" as we knew him, was a native of Lyme, Connecticut. The valedictorian of the Old Lyme High School class of 1950 went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in dairy production at the University of Connecticut. He then served his country in the Army Corps of Engineers before finally settling into his life as a dairy farmer, a tradition he carried on like the seven generations of Tiffanys that came before him.

Jack got his start in local politics when he was elected to the Lyme Board of Selectman.